

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Diana Nguyen-Thien-Minh et al.

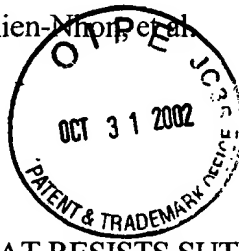
) Group Art Unit: 3738

Application No.: 09/745,386

)
) Examiner: A. Stewart

Filing Date: December 21, 2000

For: HEART VALVE HOLDER THAT RESISTS SUTURE
LOOPING



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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

DECLARATION OF DIANA NGUYEN UNDER 37 CFR §1.132

I, Diana Nguyen, declare that:

1. I am an engineering specialist at Edwards Lifesciences Corp. with ²⁴27 years of experience in the design of heart valves and associated holders.
2. I am familiar with U.S. Patent No. 4,865,600 to Carpentier, et al., and the design of the holder sutures disclosed therein, which do not cross at the valve commissure tips.
3. The design of the holder sutures disclosed and claimed in the present application is an advantage over the design in the Carpentier, et al. patent because the crossed-over nature at the valve commissure tips defines a planar barrier of sorts closely adjacent to each commissure tip. The crossed-over nature of the holder sutures at the valve commissure tips also presses down on the fabric at those points and reduces the profile of the material. This design helps prevent suture looping.

I state under the penalty of perjury of the Laws of the United States of America that the foregoing statements are based on my personal knowledge and that I am aware that willful, false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and may jeopardize the validity of any patent that may result from the above-identified application, and that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Diana Nguyen
Diana Nguyen

Oct 28, 2002
Dated